

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness



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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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GOHSEP launches monthly newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 3

ESF-2 Workshop

April 3- 7

ESF-7 Workshop

April 4

NIMS Training Course at the
Holiday Inn in Baton Rouge

Operations/Planning: Gulf
States Regional Community
Policing Institute Presentation
by Col. Bill Doran

April 6

Preparedness: IPC exercise in
preparation for the May
Hurricane Exercise

Troops to Teachers: Baton
Rouge Veterans Job Fair

April 11

ESF-15 Workshop

April 19

Troops to Teachers: ACAP Job
Fair at Fort Stewart, GA

April 27

Troops to Teachers: Northwest
Florida Panhandle Job Fair

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness has a new name and a new newsletter. This is the first issue of a monthly newsletter this agency hopes will keep our parish partners informed about what is going on at GOHSEP. We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions as well as any information you would like to submit.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Division Summaries

PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

Division Chief Neal Fudge

Peer Reviews for the 2006 state housing grant applications in Washington, D.C. are complete, and grants will be awarded by May.

The Hurricane Tabletop Exercise for the Governor and her cabinet will be May 16. The Hurricane Tabletop Exercise for FEMA Region 6 will take place in New Orleans on May 16-17, and the State Hurricane Functional Exercise will be May 23-24.

The following courses are scheduled for the month of April:

IS 700/800-NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	April 11	St Landry
ICS-100 -Introduction of ICS	April 12	St Landry
ICS- 700-NIMS (SARTA)	April 12	Franklin
ICS- 200-Basic ICS for Federal Disaster Workers	April 13	St Landry
ICS- 700/800-NIMS (SARTA)	April 18	Union
IS 700/800-NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	April 18	St Mary

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Quote for the Month:

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.” —Mark Twain

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ICS-100-Introduction of ICS	April 19	St Mary
ICS-100-IMS (SARTA)	April 19	Union
ICS- 200-Basic ICS for Federal Disaster Workers	April 20	St Mary
IS 700/800-NIMS Introduction/ NRP Introduction	April 25	Vermilion
ICS-100-Introduction of ICS	April 26	Vermilion
ICS- 200-Basic ICS for Federal disaster workers	April 27	Vermilion

GOHSEP hosts three day state-wide workshop to prepare for the 2006 DHS Grant Process

2006 is the first time the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will have a competitive grant process. To prepare for the March 2 application deadline, the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness hosted a three day workshop in Alexandria in February.

At the workshop, stakeholders from a wide array of first responder agencies, state agencies and all regions conducted a complete Program and Capability Review of the State’s Homeland Security Program. This review resulted in an Enhancement Plan that will shape and guide how the grant program is managed and implemented for the next five years.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Division Chief Matt Farlow

Current priorities for the IT division include installing satellite antennas in all parishes below I-10, purchasing systems for rapid communications and planning activities for telecommunications infrastructure resiliency.

The IT division expects to have satellite radios operational in all parishes below I-10 prior to hurricane season. The radios will provide backup communications to the state 800 MHz radio system.

During Katrina, the division recognized the need for rapid communication systems to aid in the restoration of parish Emergency Operations Centers. The agency released a bid proposal for units to provide Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephones and wireless computer access to the internet via satellite. The units are expected to be available during hurricane season.

Two efforts are underway to address telecommunications infrastructure resiliency. In a meeting on March 8, GOHSEP and key business and telecommunications providers in the southeast region began drafting a plan for infrastructure restoration which will be in place prior to June 1. The IT division also sponsored two meetings to expand the ESF-2 (Telecommunications) plan for the state. The IT division will attach a final plan, along with state agency plans, to the State Emergency Operations Plan prior to June 1.

DISASTER RECOVERY DIVISION

Division Chief Art Jones

Individual Assistance:

As of March 24, FEMA received 934,496 referrals for Individual Housing Assistance and approved 689,462 referrals, totaling \$3,053,233,730 for Hurricane Katrina. For Hurricane Rita, FEMA has received 254,989 referrals for Individual Housing Assistance and approved 160,638 referrals, totaling \$400,410,791. The Small Business Administration has approved \$4,186,043,200 in assistance for both Katrina and Rita.

Public Assistance:

As of March 28, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness distributed \$635,066,758 in public assistance funding for Hurricane Katrina and \$30,861,912 for Hurricane Rita.

Public Assistance applicants are encouraged to monitor the status of their projects on the web at www.louisianapa.com. Each applicant can not only apply online, but also monitor the progress of the PW once the RPA has been processed and the projects are accomplished. It is also important to remember that all required forms are on the website main page under resources.

OPERATIONS/PLANNING DIVISION

Division Chief Col. Bill Doran

The Emergency Support Function (ESF) Planning Workshops, sponsored by DHS to aid ESF leads and agencies, are being facilitated and should be complete by the end of April. The ESFs are improving plans and procedures to support the state Emergency Operations Plan.

Pelican Plan templates were sent to the parishes this week and are also available on the state website. The Pelican Plan is a template for Parishes to use in creating their Parish Emergency Operations Plan. Use of this template, while not all-encompassing, will aid Parishes in becoming National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant. The Pelican Plan point of contact is Mr. D.C. Jensen at (225) 925-7500.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

State Director Al Almodovar

In March, Al Almodovar and Diana Wilson attended the national Troops to Teachers conference in Washington, D.C. The annual meetings brings together Troops to Teachers' and Spouses to Teachers' state managers to review program accomplishments and goals, share ideas and develop strategies to improve performance.

Troops to Teachers also announced their 2006 Teacher of the Year, Senior Master Sergeant Eric A. Combs from Ohio. Combs is retired from the 88th Security Forces Squadron, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio where his last position was the Force Protection Operations Superintendent. During his 20 year career, Sergeant Combs has been stationed in South Korea, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Wyoming and England and has been on numerous deployments in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe.

**To submit newsletter
information, please
call 225-925-3966.**